

How important is to be a Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO? The case of Berlenga Islands (Peniche – Portugal)



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Berlenga Island

The **Berlenga Island** is about 7 miles from the Peniche Port (Portugal).

It is **1500 meters long** and **800 meters wide**, with a perimeter of 4000 meters and reaches 88 meters at its highest point and -30 meters at its lowest.

It is a region of great interest for **botanical** specialists with several **endemic species** and species of **limited distribution**.

Important nesting spot for some species of ocean birds (such as the guillemot - *Airo uria aalge* - , a symbol of the reserve), and a passing point for several migratory species.

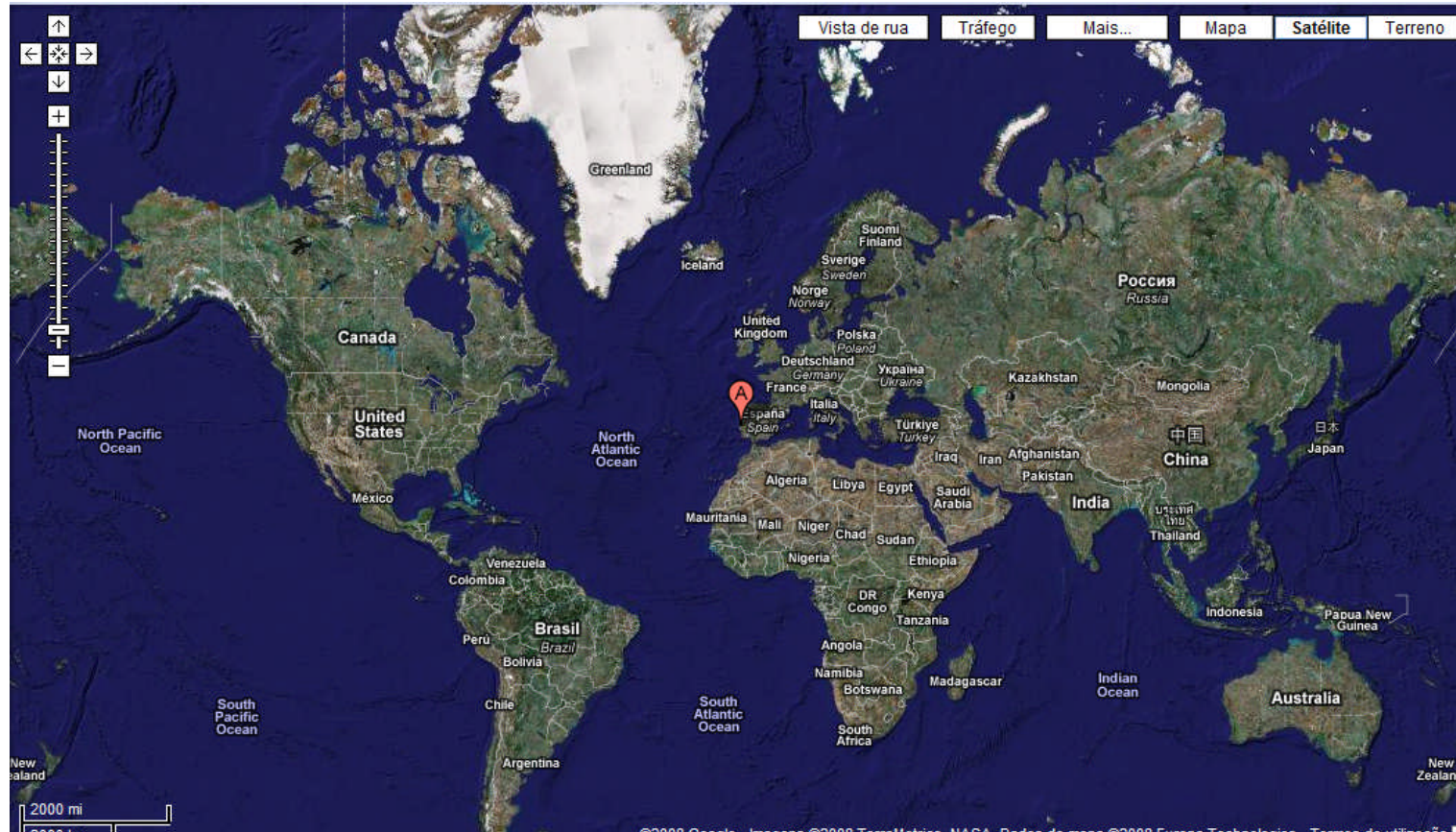
Is a Maritime Natural Reserve of **great wild life richness**, particularly ichthyology.



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Berlenga Island- Location

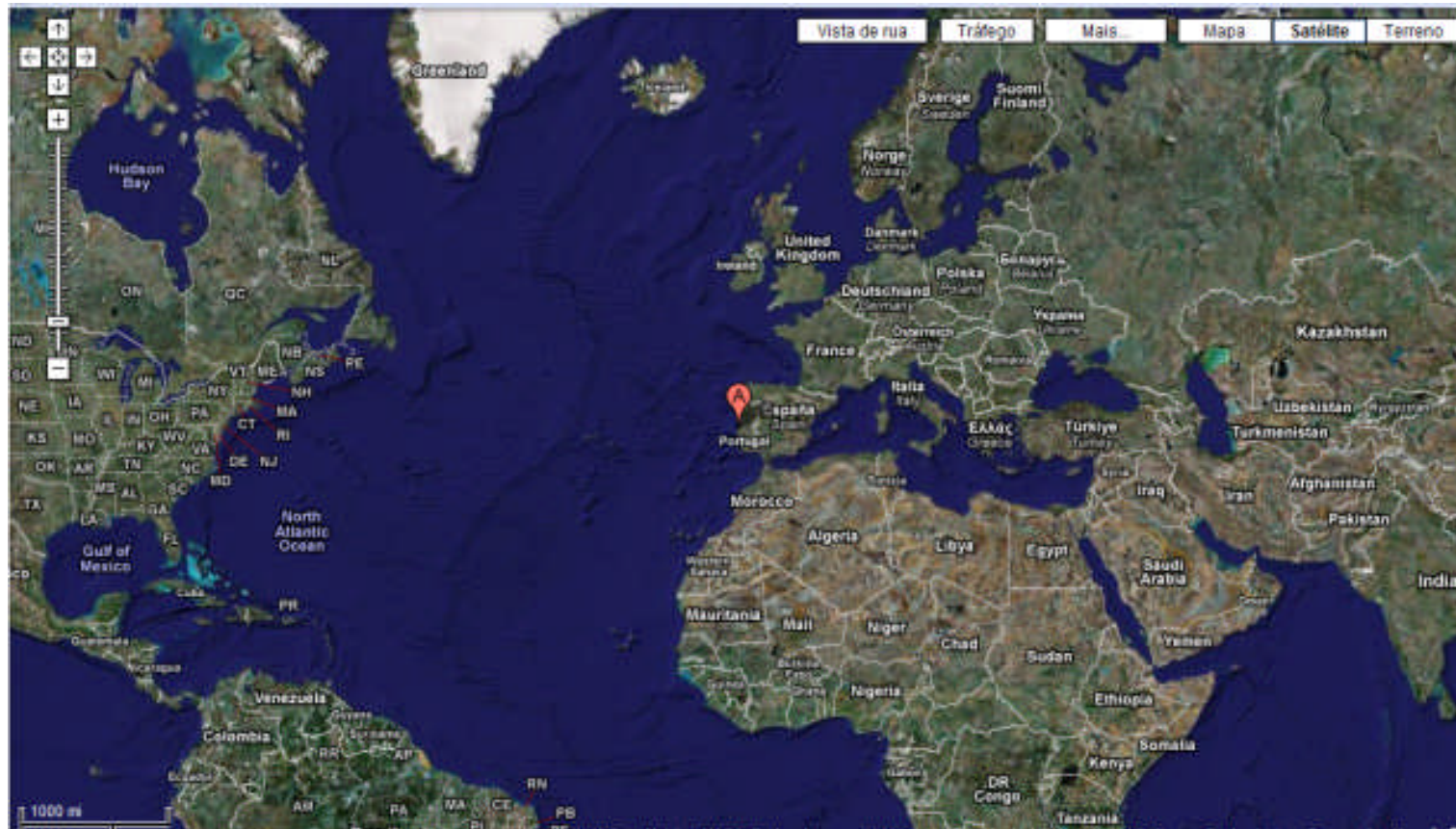


2000 mi

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Berlenga Island- Location

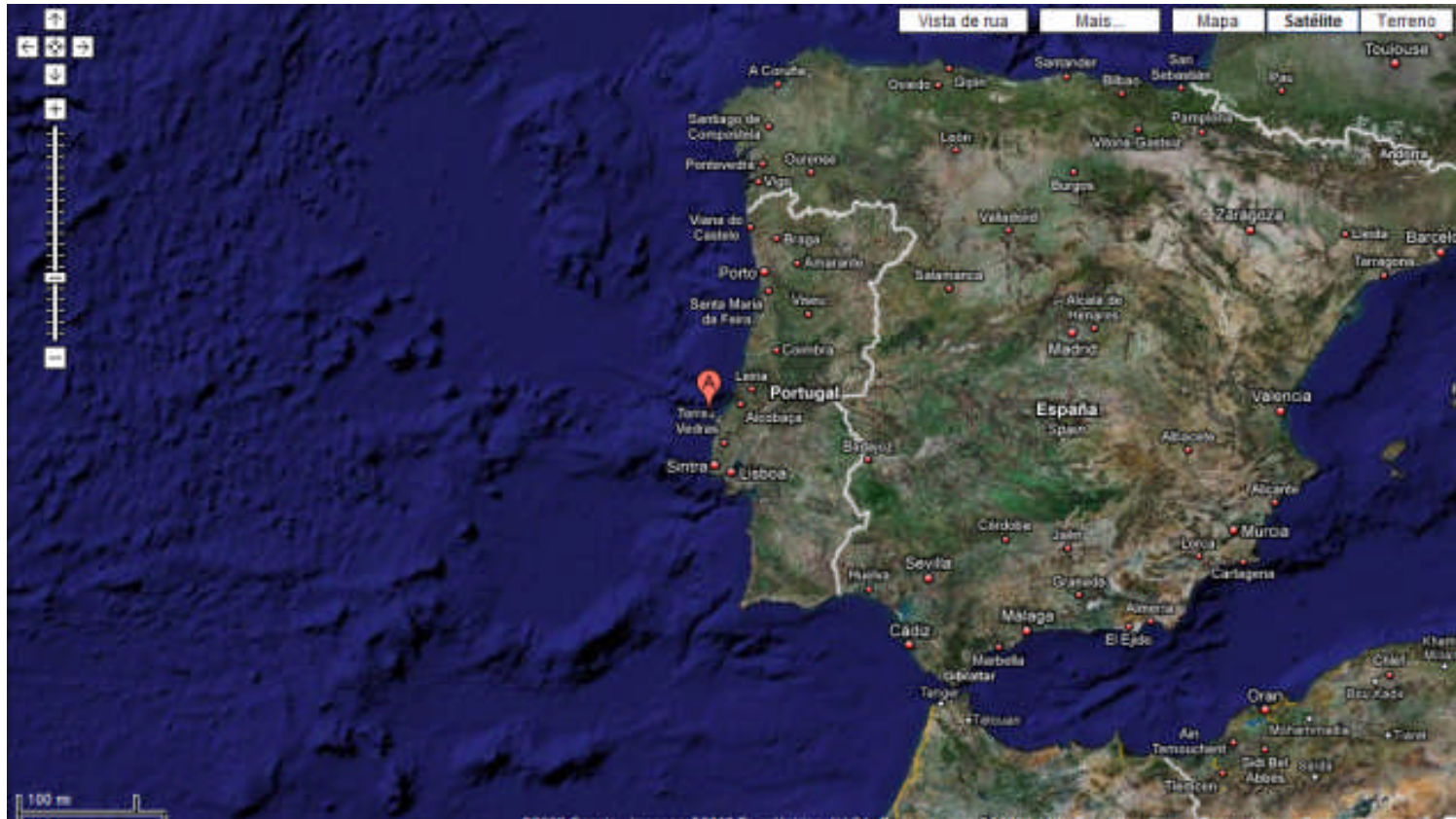


1000 mi

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Berlenga Island- Location

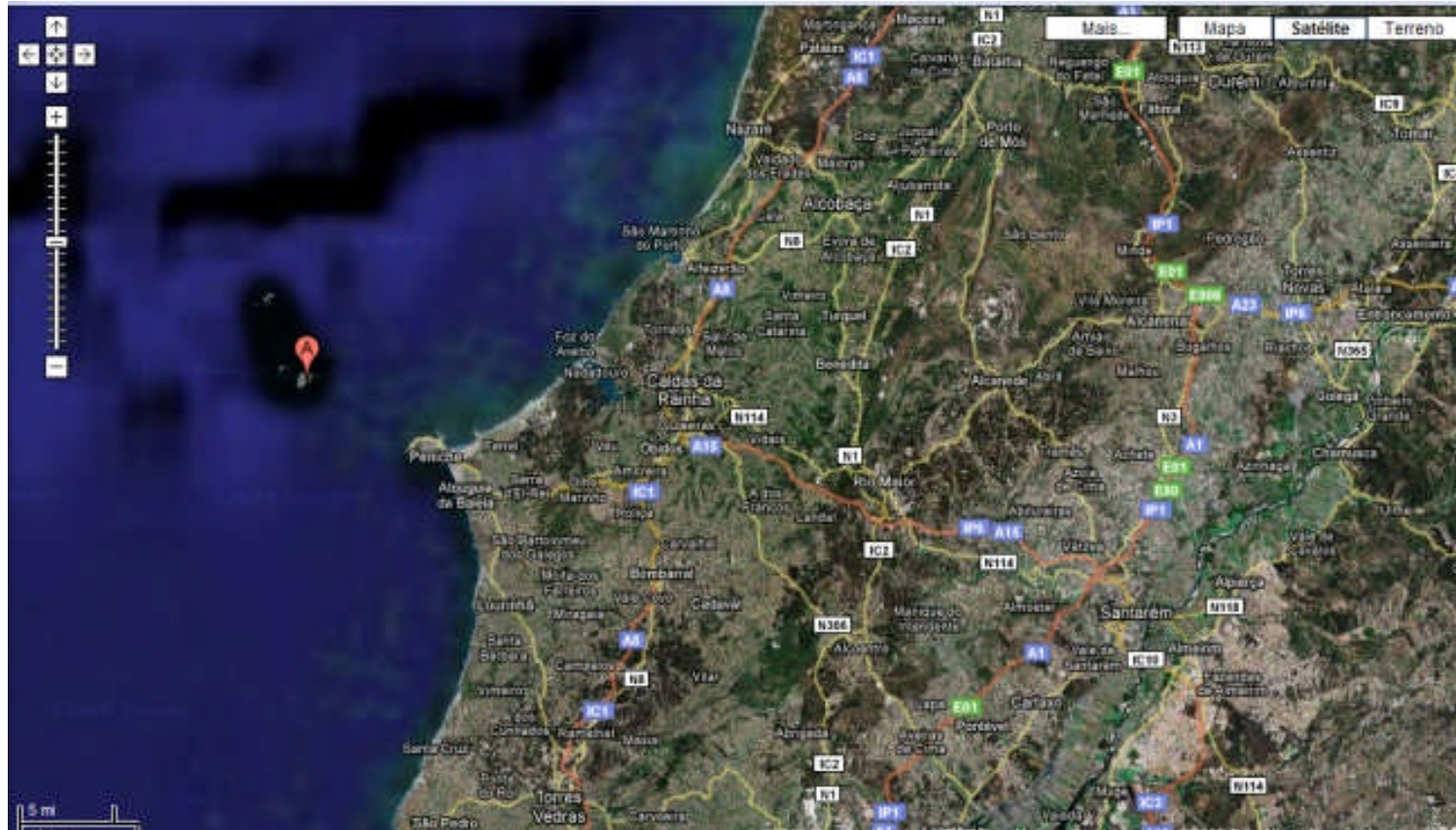


100 mi

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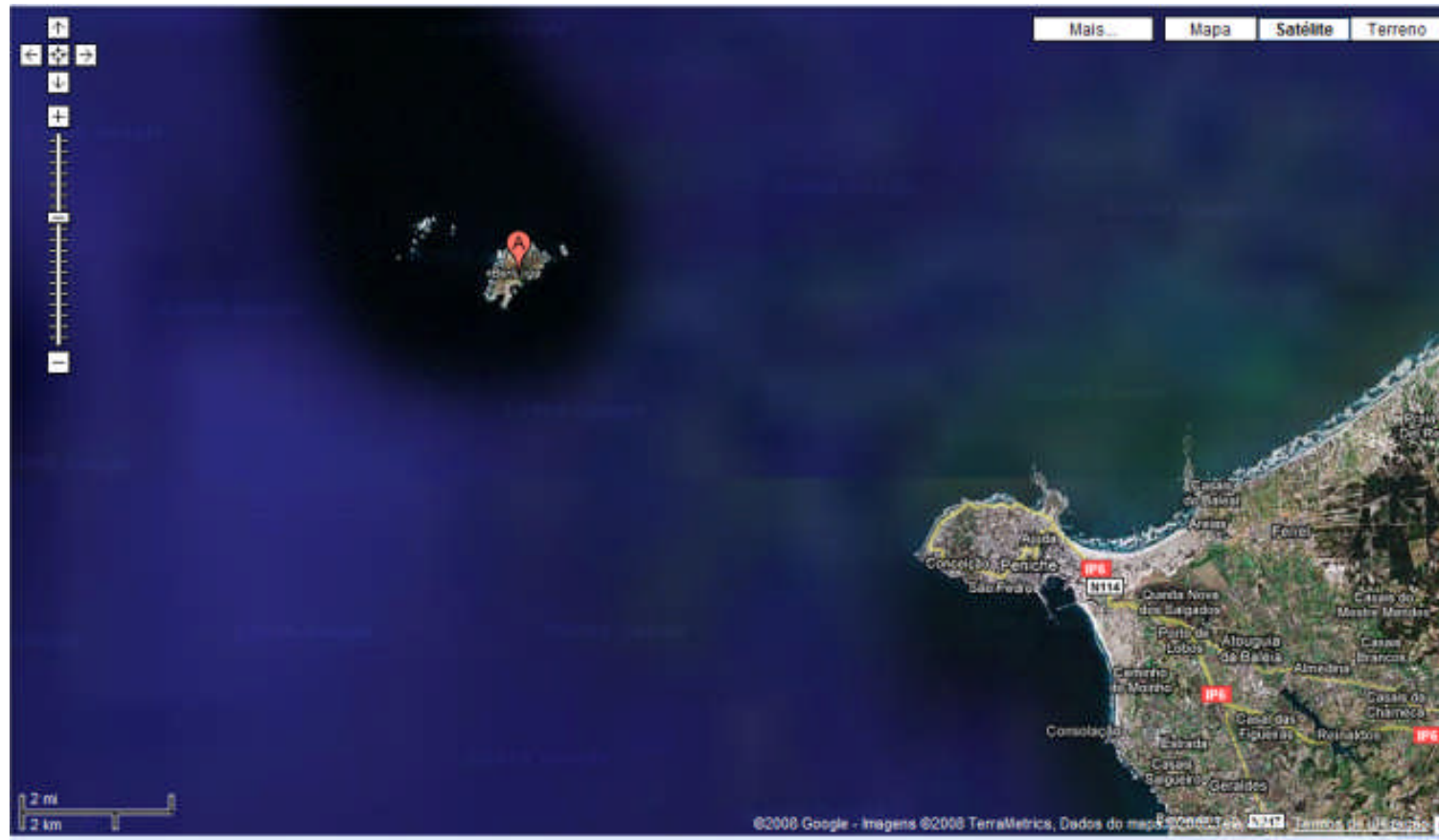
Berlenga Island- Location



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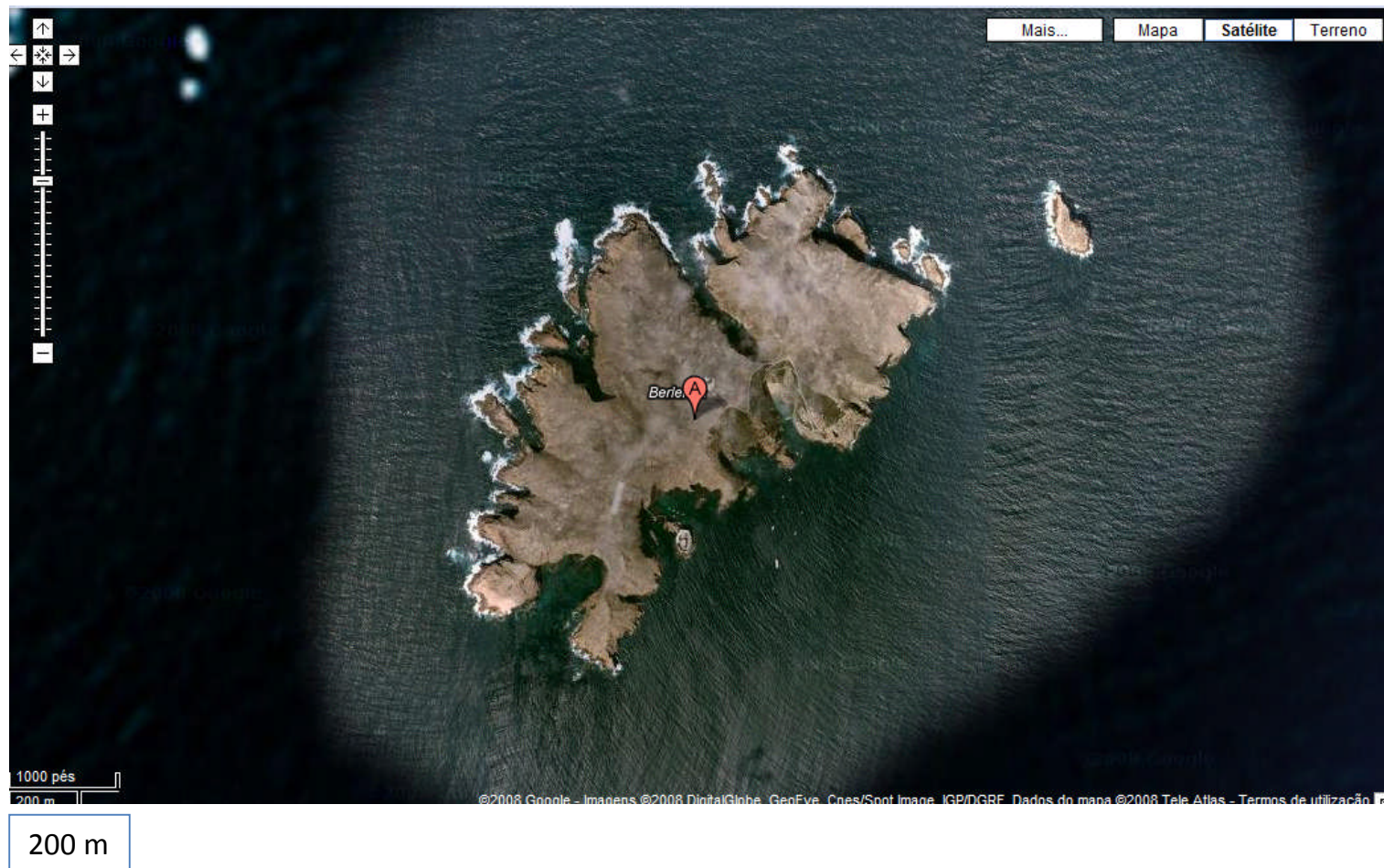
Berlenga Island- Location



2 mi

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município de
Peniche
www.cm-peniche.pt

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Technology Evaluation for Environmental Risk Mitigation Principal Center



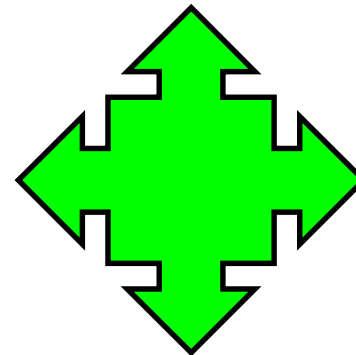
Berlenga context



Tourism

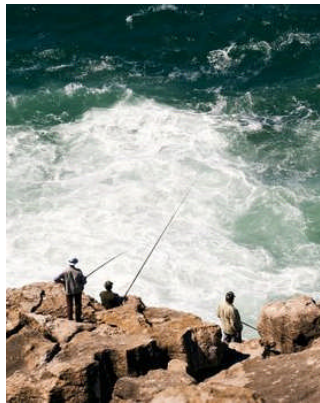


Research
activities



Nature
conservation

Fisheries



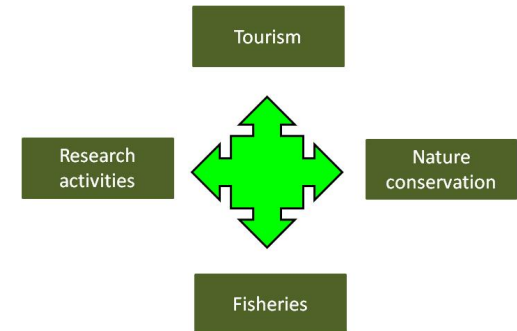
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Berlenga context

How to handle all this different activities?

... (1) by **involving the different stakeholders** on decision makes. Definition of a **strategic council for Berlenga Natural Reserve**, which includes Governmental agencies. Local authorities, research institutions, fishermen's organization, tourism activities)



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Berlenga context

How to handle all this different activities?

... (2) by **increasing public awareness** for nature conservation



Promotion of Exhibitions

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Berlenga context



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Berlenga context

How to handle all this different activities?

... (2) by **increasing public awareness** for nature conservation



Promoting environmental friendly activities – **scuba diving trash collections**

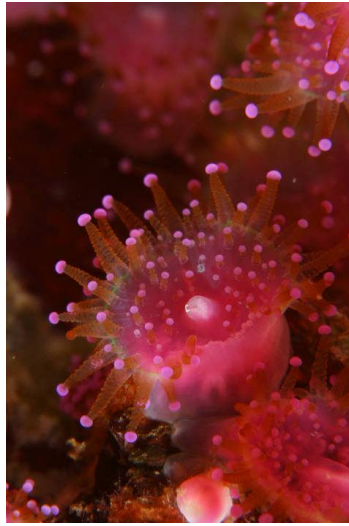
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Berlenga context

How to handle all this different activities?

... (2) by **increasing public awareness** for nature conservation



Supporting scubadiving contests



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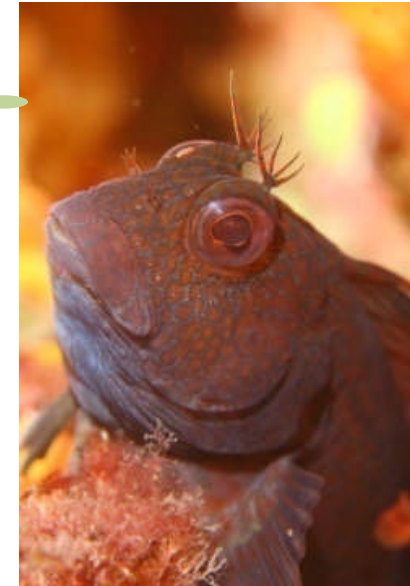


Berlenga context

How to handle all this different activities?

(3) Biosphere reserve
(UNESCO) nomination

Candidatura das Berlengas
a Reserva da Biosfera da UNESCO



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Biosphere reserve (UNESCO)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization



...

Biosphere reserves are sites recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme **which innovate and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development.**

Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems **promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.**

USA – 47 biosphere reserves, nominations start on 1976, area [9,826,630 km²](#)

Portugal – 3 biosphere reserves, nominations start on 1981, area [92,345 km²](#) (ca. 1% of USA)



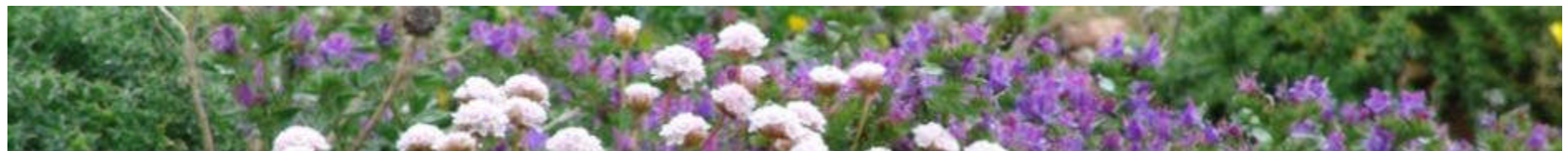
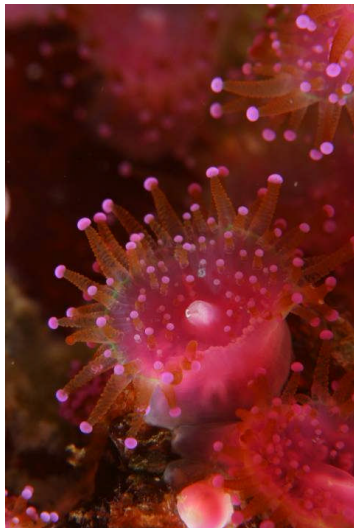
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Biosphere reserve (UNESCO)

How this nomination could be supported?

First, based on the importance of its **natural heritage**



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Biosphere reserve (UNESCO)

How this nomination could be supported?

Second, by involving local people (workshops with stakeholders)



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Biosphere reserve (UNESCO)

How this nomination could be supported?

Third, by demonstrating equilibrium between human activities and nature protection.

How?

- Berlenga – Sustainability laboratory, extremely important project in order to significantly decrease the human impact on the island



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Biosphere reserve (UNESCO)

Berlenga • Laboratório de Sustentabilidade

Berlenga – Laboratory for Sustainability

WORKPACKAGES:

1. ENERGY PRODUCTION
2. WASTEWATER TREATMENT
3. POTABLE WATER PRODUCTION
4. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



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Biosphere reserve (UNESCO)

How important is this nomination?

Biosphere reserves provides **context-specific opportunities** to combine scientific knowledge and governance modalities to:

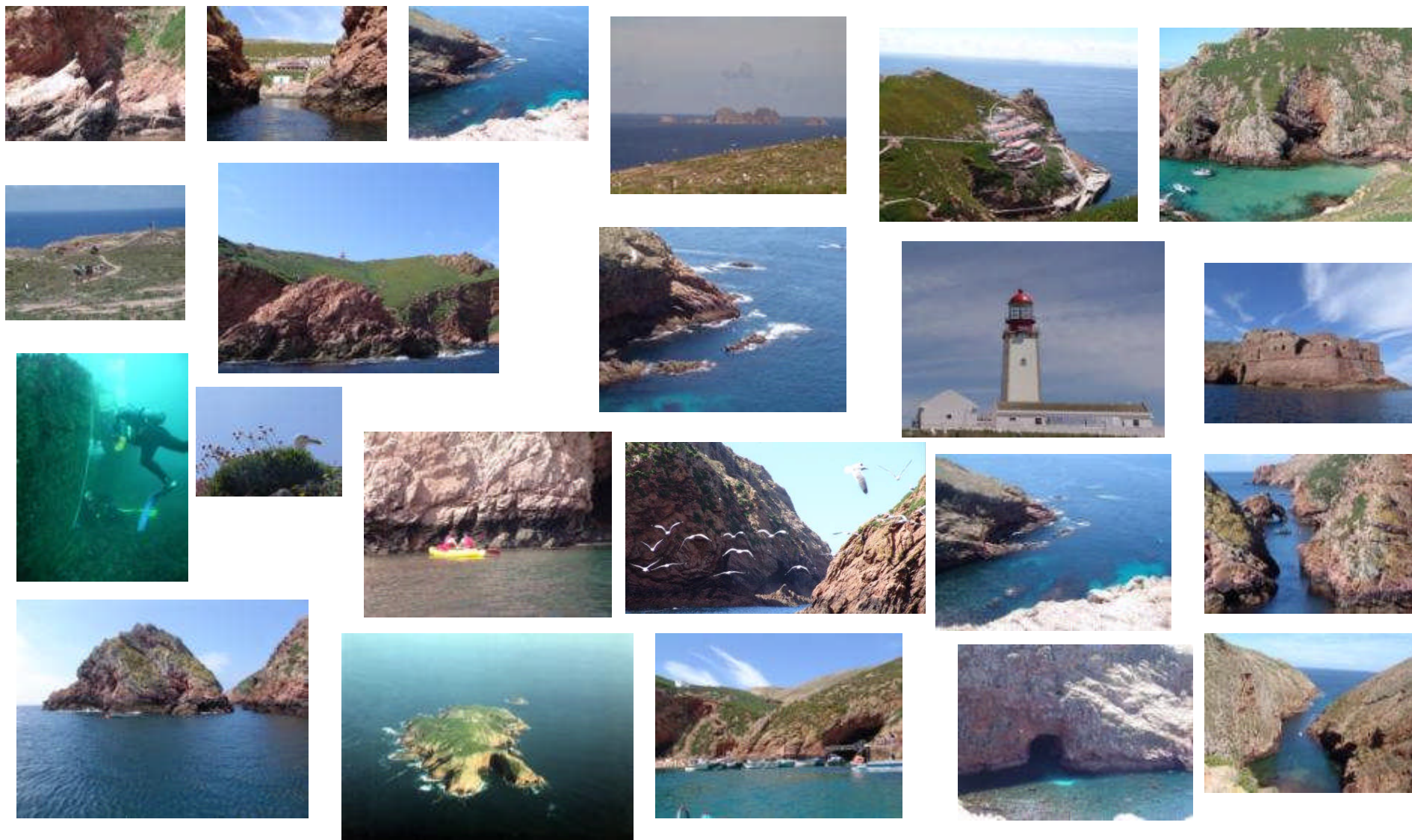
- Reduce biodiversity loss
- Improve livelihoods
- Enhance social, economic and cultural conditions for environmental sustainability

Biosphere reserve can also **serve as learning and demonstrating sites for Sustainable Development.**

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Thanks for your attention...



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